

## INTERPRETATION

# Kremlin Rejecting Stalin-Type Spy Purge

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN This means that no one so far has been arrested.

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Although Oleg Penkovsky reportedly had contacts within the Soviet hierarchy, the Russian government apparently has decided against a Stalin-type purge in the aftermath of his spy trial.

Reports from Moscow confirmed the opinion of top United States analysts that the Russians do not want to implicate—or severely punish—more than a minimum of Col. Penkovsky's associates. He was executed two weeks ago, shortly after his conviction on espionage charges.

Izvestia, the official government newspaper, said the Soviet Union's defense establishment was not damaged by Col. Penkovsky's activities. This was an effort to calm Soviet citizens who might have been alarmed by the information produced at his trial.

Col. Penkovsky had confessed to turning over about 5,000 frames of exposed film, taken during his work as an administrative official in a Soviet scientific agency.

## Rejects Political Motive

The Izvestia article, in the form of questions and answers posed to Col. Penkovsky's trial prosecutor, said the colonel's treachery was due to personality defects—careerism, love of bourgeois life, etc. It explicitly ruled out political motivations.

"Most of the people who met Penkovsky were honest and loyal to our motherland," the article said. It said his close friends were not criminally responsible for his actions.

In Stalin's time, an espionage trial such as Col. Penkovsky's would almost certainly have been followed by widespread executions and purges from military and party ranks.

Sources here said Col. Penkovsky had been an assistant military attache in Turkey before he took his post with the State Committee on Co-ordination of Scientific Research Work.

The Izvestia article said officials who were lax in their dealings with Col. Penkovsky were not punished. It said the "bourgeois and party lines."

The most prominent official implicated in the Izvestia article was Marshal Sergei Varentsov, former chief of the Soviet tactical missile forces. According to Izvestia, investigation showed that Marshal Varentsov was a friend of Col. Penkovsky's who interceded for him when he was to be retired from the army, and later got him his job in the scientific agency. Marshal Varentsov was "demoted."

## Note Fears of Purge

Experts here believe the Soviet government has taken the mild approach to the Penkovsky case in order not to demoralize the population who have a dread fear of another Stalinist purge.

Despite persistent reports in the West that Col. Penkovsky was a spy for political reasons, the official Soviet view has not changed since last December when he was first arrested.

This view has held that Col. Penkovsky was a corrupt person, lured by British and American intelligence agents into betraying his country for material benefits. As a result, the Soviet press has stepped up a "vigilance" campaign against excessive contacts with Westerners in Moscow. Pravda even suggested last week that Russians boycott Western diplomatic missions and avoid the "bourgeois ideology."